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Quarry Hill Community School Pre-K through 4 Annual Report 2016

Teaching and Learning

Through the guidance of Mrs. Kate Watts, Curriculum Director, Quarry Hill has piloted 2 math programs this year.

In grades K-4, students began with the enVisions 2.0 program and are now implementing Go Math. Both the enVisions and Go Math programs provide students with "worktests" that they can write in as well as an online component available to each child. In the spring, final program recommendations will be sent to Mrs. Clarke for her budgetary consideration. Based on that decision, we will either finish out this school year with enVisions 2.0 or Go Math. Regardless of the product(s) used, students will receive the Common Core State Standards Mathematics instruction required for each grade level.

All professional staff are continuing their curriculum mapping work through the use of a new software program. Edoctrina is a program that is utilized for planning, curriculum mapping, student assessment, RTI, data reporting, student learning objectives and teacher observations. A curriculum map identifies timelines, sequence, skills, content, assessment and resources for a particular unit and content area. Our next steps for mapping are as follows:

- Continue to embed the Next Generation Science and Social Studies standards into the ELA and Math maps
- Continue to create and implement rigorous lessons plans
- Complete transfer of maps into Edoctrina

School Climate

Quarry Hill administration and staff wanted to find a way to foster not only the expectations for behavior and academic rigor, but to foster all of the amazing ideas, acts of kindness and collaboration that occur every day. We decided that our bees needed a Superhero makeover! Superheroes are respectful, responsible and scholars too. To kick off this initiative, we had our first assembly on September 3rd. Mrs. Bernat and Mrs. Lukasik exercised their acting skills with a skit demonstrating that "You don't need a cape to be a Superhero"! The students then watched a video by Kid President. If you'd like to be inspired too, please see "For the Heroes: A Pep Talk From Kid President" on YouTube. As you know, Quarry Hill is full of every day Superheroes! Mrs. Bernat and Mrs. Lukasik used this opportunity to introduce all of our powerful staff to our students. As each staff member was introduced, they stated one school/college that they have attended and they then revealed their Superpower! This assembly demonstrated how important it is to maintain a positive school community by making sure that our students know who each and every one of us are, promote college and career readiness by sharing part of our educational journey and that we are all ordinary people doing extraordinary things every day!

College and Career Readiness

Staff and students have taken the lead on promoting college and career readiness at Quarry Hill. Fourth Grade had collaborative discussions about college and why it's important. Mrs. Royce, Ellis and deVarennes shared their history with college and talked about their educational journey. Each classroom adopted and decorated their teacher's college mascot and made it their own. The students then read 50 interesting facts about WSU, Wheaton and Seattle Pacific University. They then highlighted 10 facts that they found to be important, narrowed their list down to one and typed it into a class document! As a closing, students were given a mini - book and were asked to answer, "Why is college important to me?"

The month of March will feature guest speakers and activities to expand on our college and career readiness initiative. As the foundation of the district, Quarry Hill will continue to support the initiative by creating discussions and lessons around careers and college. We will be providing the link between the choices our students make now and how they will affect their future.

Granite Valley Middle School - Grades 5-8, Mary K. Cieplik, Principal

The staff at Granite Valley Middle School is dedicated to providing rigorous educational opportunities for all students. Middle school is a time for students to develop their critical thinking skills and begin to take responsibility for their education as they really learn about themselves as a learner. Through our interdisciplinary team structure, co-teaching classrooms, inclusion programs and student-centered learning, our students have a variety of opportunities to demonstrate mastery of concepts.

This year staff has an opportunity to work on their curriculum during early release days. One focus area this year is math. In an effort to improve the overall math comprehension, we have implemented two math pilots this year at Granite Valley this year. Both of these programs focus on the 8 mathematical practice standards. The 5th grade team is piloting enVisionMATH, which is a collaborative effort with the K-4 teachers from Quarry Hill on this. The teachers in grades 6th-8th are currently piloting the Go Math and they already piloted the Core Focus math program. Teachers have spent a great deal of time looking at the pros and cons of these programs, so we can make an educated decision on a program that will be a good fit for our students, faculty and community.

We have made great gains in data analysis this year. Each team meets every other week for a Response to Intervention (RTI) team meeting. In addition to the grade level teachers, administration and our school adjustment counselor collaborates on how best to support students that are struggling and may need interventions. This is another example that demonstrates our staff's commitment to high achievement for all students.

We have a wide variety of related arts classes for our students. This year we are thrilled to have brought art back to GVMS. Mrs. Kathy Novak has already had a dramatic impact on all of our students. Our halls are alive with art once again. Our other specials classes are physical education, health, informational technology, reading lab, Spanish, band, chorus and general music.

As we work to reinforce positive values at GVMS, our "Kindness Counts" program, now in its tenth year recognizes and awards students for random acts of kindness. We also continue to recognize our students of the month. Each team selects a boy and girl and the specials teachers select one student, so each month 9 students are recognized.

Middle school can be a difficult as students are going through so many changes on their path to adulthood. This year we have added character education to our curriculum at GVMS. Each month, we focus on a different character trait. The list of character traits we are working on this year is as follows: respect, responsibility, citizenship, acceptance, perseverance, compassion, integrity, humility, cooperation, and courage. Each month we have a character assembly, do a presentation that focuses on the character trait and how kids can incorporate it into their lives. Then the students complete an activity in their character education small groups and go through some discussion questions afterwards. The students and staff have responded very positively to this new program. The goal with this was to develop a program that helps students feel safe in their learning environment, allows students to thrive and ultimately supports our efforts to have happy, successful learners at GVMS.

We appreciate the parents and community support of our students and staff and we are excited about the many opportunities ahead in the 2016-2017 school year.

Monson High School- Grades 9-12 (Mr. William Metzger, Principal)

Monson High School is experiencing another very successful year. We continue to focus on preparing our students for living, learning, and working in the 21st century. Again this year we had a record number (24) of our seniors earn the John and Abigail Adams Scholarship for their performance on the MCAS. The Class of 2015 consisted of 75 seniors, 81% of which enrolled in either a two-year or four-year college with the rest entering the workforce, technical schools, or the armed forces.

Through the generous support of the town, the gymnasium floor was resurfaced and looks great. Last fall was an exciting time for the community with both of our soccer teams winning the Division IV State Championship. The victories and the events leading up to them were wonderful community events that will not soon be forgotten. Monson High School is also the current home of three time State Diving Champion Connor Pennington.

The faculty continues to work diligently on preparing for the NEASC reaccreditation. This school year they have worked collaboratively to rewrite our mission statement and student learning expectations in preparation for next year's self-study.

The focus of the high school continues to be offering our students a diverse and well-rounded high school experience. This year saw the return of our music program with students able to take classes in band, chorus, guitar, and music appreciation. Additionally, we now offer a class in computer networking co-taught by one of our faculty members and an information technology professional.